

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 6–9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirayama (US Patent No. 5,493,604 A) in view of Azartash et al. (WO 9921343 A1) and further view of Takahashi (JP 411027352A) and Takagi et al. (US Patent No. 5,235,656 A). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirayama, in view of Weisshappel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,857,148), and further in view of Tamura (JP 406224816), Takahashi and Takagi et al. For at least the following reasons, the Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

None of the references disclose or suggest “wherein portions of one surface of the flexible board are folded or turned down before storing the flexible board in the lower case, and wherein a battery terminal, a microphone, a key diaphragm, and a LED for keys are all mounted on said folder or turned down portions of the flexible board” as recited in claim 1. Similar language is found in claim 11.

The Office Action of March 9, 2006 states on page 12,

The Examiner believes that the claim language “folded or turned down before storing in the lower case,” reads on the foldable telephone disclosed by Hirayama, as described above in the rejections of claims 1 and 11. More specifically, the foldable telephone is folded before storing, therefore the battery terminal, microphone, key diaphragm and LED for keys are folded before storing.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 does *not* state that the *telephone* is *folded before storing* or that the *battery terminal, microphone, key diaphragm and LED for keys* are *folded before storing*. In Applicant’s claim 1, *the portions of the flexible board* with the above-listed elements (i.e., battery terminal, microphone, key diaphragm and LED for keys) are *folded or turned down*.

Although the Hirayamam phone is folded close for storing, Hirayamam does *not* teach that *any portions of a flexible board* are being *folded* before being stored in the lower case. Thus, Hirayama fails to disclose or suggest the above-listed elements are mounted on *portions of a flexible board* and these *portions are folded or turned down* before the flexible board is stored in the lower case. The Office Action does cite Takagi as having a flexible printed circuit board that is a keyboard. However, the Takagi flexible board does not teach that the above-listed elements are mounted on *portions of the flexible board* and these *portions are folded or turned down*. Therefore, none of the references disclose or suggest that any portions of a flexible board with mounted elements are folded or turned down before storing the flexible board in a lower case. Thus, even if combined, the references do not disclose or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appln. No. 09/806,103
Amtd. dated June 8, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action dated March 9, 2006

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33388.

Respectfully submitted,
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